

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 127755
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127755

NODIS
PEKING FOR HOLBROOKE AND GLEYSTEN ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: JUSTICE INTEREST IN INFORMATION FROM FORMER
AMBASSADOR KIM DONG-JO
REF: STATE 127480

1. CONTRARY TO EARLIER INDICATIONS, THE IMPORTANCE OF
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM
KIM DONG-JO IS NOW BECOMING SIGNIFICANT, DUE TO NEW DEVELOP-
MENTS IN RECENT WEEKS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO SUGGESTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT AND
AMBASSADOR SNEIDER, JUSTICE ARRANGED AGAIN TO QUESTION
FORMER ROK LMBASSY INFORMATION OFFICER LEE JAE-HYON, WHO
WAS PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF ALLEGATIONS BEFORE HOUSE ETHICS
COMMITTEE THAT KIM DONG-JO HAD BEEN STUFFING ENVELOPES OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 127755

MONEY TO GO TO THE HILL. WITH LEE'S PERMISSION, HE WAS
GIVEN POLYGRAPH TEST AND PROVED TO BE GOOD POLYGRAPH
SUBJECT. UNDER POLYGRAPH, HIS STORY REGARDING THE
ENVELOPES FULLY HELD UP.

3. IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, JUSTICE HAS INFORMATION FROM
SOME AMERICAN CITIZEN HONORARY CONSULS OF ROK THAT, SUBSE-

QUENT EVEN TO HIS RELINQUISHMENT OF DUTIES AS ROK
AMBASSADOR TO USA, KIM DONG-JO PROVIDED THEM WITH CASH
AND INSTRUCTED THEM TO CONTRIBUTE TO CAMPAIGNS OF FRIENDLY

NATIONAL CANDIDATES.

4. ON BASIS OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, IT NOW APPEARS LESS
LIKELY THAT JUSTICE CAN SATISFACTORILY WIND UP ITS OWN
INVESTIGATION WITHOUT ACCESS TO KIM DONG-JO. IN
RECOGNITION OF LIMITATIONS PROVIDED BY VIENNA CONVENTION,
JUSTICE DOES NOT EXPECT KIM TO BECOME WITNESS OR OTHERWISE
BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN PROSECUTION. HOWEVER, IT IS
BECOMING IMPORTANT AT LEAST TO HAVE PRIVATE ACCESS TO HIM
TO DEVELOP INFORMATION WHICH CAN BE PURSUED DIRECTLY
HERE IN UNITED STATES.

5. ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THAT JUSTICE COULD ENVISAGE
LESS RIGOROUS PROCEDURE THAN JAWORSKI IS INSISTING UPON,
(WITHOUT OATH AND WITH SECRECY OF CONTACT), IT IS OBVIOUS
THAT NO SEPARATE NEGOTIATION EFFORT CAN BE LAUNCHED AT THIS
TIME WHICH APPEARS IN CONFLICT WITH JAWORSKI REQUIREMENTS.

6. COMMENT: GIVEN THE NEW EVIDENCE AS TO GREATER
IMPORTANCE OF KIM DONG-JO, MUCH OF WHICH IS OR WILL BE KNOWN
TO CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS, PLUS THE RESOLUTION
PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE (REFTEL), REASONABLE
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PAGE 03 STATE 127755

ACCESS TO KIM DONG-JO HAS BECOME MUCH MORE IMPORTANT TO
FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND ROK THAN WE AND ROK HAD
PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE
BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD BE RAISED
DURING THE BRZEZINSKI VISIT TO SEOUL ALONG LINES IN THE
ISSUES AND SCOPE PAPER YOU HAVE, ALTHOUGH WE LEAVE IT UP
TO THE PARTY AND AMBASSADOR SNEIDER TO DECIDE BEST TACTICS.

7. ROK EMBASSY HERL (COUNSELOR PARK) HAS STRESSED THAT IT
BELIEVES THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI TO RAISE
THIS ISSUE TO REINFORCE KOREAN EMBASSY'S MESSAGES TO
SEOUL. POLITICAL COUNSELOR SUGGESTED THIS BE DONL
ONLY IN FAIRLY PRIVATE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PARK BECAUSE
OF PERSONALITY INTERACTION OF VARIOUS CONCERNED MEMBERS OF
CABINET. HE FELT PASSAGE OF A HOSTILE RESOLUTION BY THE
CONGRESS PRIOR TO FORTHCOMING MEETING IN SEOUL WOULD
POISON ATMOSPHERE, HOWEVER, FOR ANY FRUITFUL DISCUSSION
OF THE ISSUE. VANCE

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